

News Release

Great Dismal Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge



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Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Releases Details of Annual Hunt Program

Suffolk, Virginia. Details of the annual Black Bear Hunt and Deer Hunt were released today by Refuge Manager Suzanne Baird. "We are trying to get the word out early that there are changes to both hunts this year," reported Baird. Changes have been made to the application process for the Bear Hunt and to available hunting areas for the Deer Hunt.

Interested hunters will apply for this year's quota drawing for the Black Bear Hunt on the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website (www.dgif.state.va.us/hunting/quotahunts), or by mail or phone through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries contractor. There is an application fee of \$7.50 and application dates are July 1 through October 6, 2007. Also new this year, the drawing selection will identify 50 hunters who then may designate one guest hunter. Both the drawn hunter and the guest hunter will be required to pay an additional \$50.00 for a refuge permit. The Bear Hunt will take place on November 30 and December 1, with a scouting day on November 24, 2007. Designated hunt areas are only in the Virginia portion of the refuge.

Registration for the fall Deer Hunt will be from August 1 through September 17. The registration process for the Deer Hunt will remain as in previous years. Interested hunters are to mail the required permit fee and their full name (as it appears on their hunting license), complete address, and phone number to Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Attention Deer Hunt, 3100 Desert Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434. The cost of the refuge permit is \$15.00, payable to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This year's Deer Hunt days will be October 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, November 2, 3. A scouting opportunity will take place on September 29 for hunters with a signed permit. The designated hunting areas will include a reopened portion of the Railroad Ditch entrance which was closed last year for forest management activities. Other open areas will include designated hunting zones in the Portsmouth Ditch, Jericho Ditch, and Corapeake Ditch entrances.

Participation in either hunt also requires the appropriate state hunting license.

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 refuges administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The refuge was established in 1974 to protect the unique swamp ecosystem and is one of the largest wildlife refuges on the east coast. Hunting is one the priority public uses on national wildlife refuges, as affirmed in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

For further information please contact the Refuge office at 757/986-3705 during business hours on Monday-Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. For additional hunt information, see www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp.